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ABSTRACT

Title VI provides federal funds to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This document describes Title VI programs and the use of funds in the Austin Independent School District (AISD), Texas for 2000-2001. The AISD allocation of \$481,559 was based on the May 2000 projected school enrollment, including projected enrollment in eligible private schools and facilities for neglected or delinquent children. Some funds were rolled forward from 1999-2000 so that a total of \$488,490 was allocated to target assistance areas, with a remaining \$45,196 allocated for management and evaluation. The following programs were funded by Title VI in the AISD in the 2000-2001 school year: (1) a coordinator of volunteers; (2) AISD library resources; (3) instructional materials; (4) private schools and facilities for the neglected or delinquent; (5) visiting teachers (one full-time and one 30% position); (6) a mathematics specialist; (8) Reading Recovery staff (two positions); (9) management; and (10) evaluation. (SLD)

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TITLE VI SUMMARY

2000-2001

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Title VI provides federal funds to states under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) as amended by *Public Law 103-382* in 1994. Title VI is intended to contribute to the improvement of elementary (including preschool) and secondary educational programs in both public and private nonprofit schools and institutions. According to *Public Law 103-382*, Title VI, Section 6001 (b), the purpose of Title VI programs is to:

- support local education reform efforts which are consistent with and support statewide reform efforts under Goals 2000: Educate America Act;
- support state and local efforts to accomplish the National Education Goals;
- provide funding to enable state and local educational agencies to implement promising educational reform programs;
- provide a continuing source of innovation and educational improvement, including support for library services and instructional and media materials; and
- meet the special educational needs of at-risk and high-cost students.

A school district receiving Title VI funds must use those funds to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would be made available in the absence of Title VI funds. School districts may use Title VI funds to expand existing programs and/or add new programs, including the addition of staff and the acquisition of materials and equipment that would not otherwise be available from state and local funding sources. In no case, however, may a school district supplant local funds by replacing them with Title VI funds.

States earn Title VI funds based on their school-aged population. A school district's Title VI entitlement is based on the number of students enrolled in the district and in participating private nonprofit schools. AISD's 2000-01 allocation of \$481,559 was based on AISD's May, 2000 projected school enrollment of 78,846; private nonprofit school enrollment of 5,262 at 27 area private schools; and enrollment of 606 at eight area Neglected or Delinquent facilities. In addition, \$52,127 was rolled forward from 1999-2000, for a total available amount of \$529,844 for the 2000-01 school year. A total of \$488,490 was allocated to the targeted assistance areas that Title VI funds support. The remaining \$45,196 was allocated for management (\$36,208) and evaluation (\$13,199) of Title VI. Indirect costs associated with the grant totaled \$3,842. Of the 27 private schools, 22 with a combined enrollment of 4,778 completed applications and spent

Title VI funds. Table 1 on the next page presents the allocations, expenditures, numbers of students served and staff funded, and cost per student for each Title VI program.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

During the 2000-2001 school year, \$34,659 of Title VI money was allocated and \$34,396 expended for a coordinator of volunteers. The money was used to pay 50% of the salary and benefits of the position. The duties of the coordinator of volunteers included development and distribution of materials, volunteer recruitment, maintaining a central database of volunteer hours, establishing ongoing communication with other area volunteer agencies, and working with community organizations to support campus needs.

Table 1: 1999-2000 Title VI Program Summary

Title VI component	Allocation From Title VI	Actual Expenditure	Number of Staff Funded	Number of Students Served	Cost per Student
Coordinator of Volunteers	\$34,659	\$34,396	1 staff (50%)	N/A	N/A
AISD Library Resources	\$237,610	\$230,181	N/A	78,846	\$2.92
Instructional Materials	\$1,975	\$2,147	N/A	78,846	\$0.03
Private Schools and Neg./Del. Facilities	\$26,614	\$25,137	N/A	5,384	\$4.67
Visiting Teachers	\$78,069	\$76,928	1 staff (100%) 1 staff (30%)	N/A	N/A
Math Specialist	\$68,469	\$64,777	1 staff (100%)	N/A	N/A
Reading Recovery	\$33,041	\$25,240	2 staff (25% each)	N/A	N/A
Management	\$36,208	\$33,616	1 staff (20%) 1 staff (5%)	N/A	N/A
Evaluation	\$13,199	\$13,138	1 staff (25%)	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	\$529,844	\$505,560	7 partly funded 2 fully funded	84,230	N/A

Source: AISD Financial Services Files

* Figures reflect Title VI allocations only. Programs may receive additional funds from other sources.

The coordinator of volunteers reported that, during the 2000-01 school year, 2,429 volunteers donated 76,566 hours to AISD high schools; 1,719 volunteers donated 40,678 hours to AISD middle schools; and 11,103 volunteers donated 223,619 hours to AISD elementary

schools. No volunteers were reported at the district level. In total, 15,251 volunteers donated 340,863 hours in AISD schools. Using the national volunteer value of \$15.39 per hour, volunteers altogether donated \$5,245,882 worth of their time to AISD. These figures represent a 10% increase in volunteer hours and a 15% increase in dollar value of volunteer time over the 1999-2000 school year.

Due to a staffing shortage, the coordinator of volunteers also acted as a coordinator of mentors for students. Duties for this position included recruiting, training, and placing mentors, acting as a liaison between mentors and the district, and promoting mentor recognition events.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Title VI allocated \$239,585 and expended \$232,328 for all AISD elementary and secondary campuses to purchase library materials. Title VI funds may be used for the purchase of supplementary library materials, assessments, reference materials, media materials, and instructional and educational materials for any subject area and for any grade level. However, materials purchased through Title VI must focus on a particular purpose, reflect high academic standards, and be part of an overall education reform program.

MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST

Title VI allocated \$68,469 and expended \$64,777 to provide the district with a mathematics specialist. The mathematics specialist spent the majority of her time planning and providing professional development training for middle school mathematics teachers. A portion of this staff development time was dedicated to keeping district mathematics teachers updated with national, state, and local standards and providing teachers with updates on TEA guidelines. The mathematics specialist also worked with mathematics teachers at low-performing schools in the district, assisting them with implementation of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, modeling lessons, and participating in team meetings.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT FACILITIES

During the 2000-01 school year, Title VI allocated \$26,614 and expended \$25,137 for 22 private, nonprofit schools and 7 Neglected or Delinquent facilities. The funds provided library resources that served 4,778 students in private, nonprofit schools and 606 students in Neglected or Delinquent facilities. By law, Title VI funds are available through AISD to nonpublic, nonprofit schools within AISD boundaries. Private, nonprofit schools were contacted in spring, 2000 to determine if they would participate during the upcoming school year. Funds were then allocated to approved applicants on a per-pupil basis for purchase of items selected by schools.

All purchases were made through AISD. The district retains title to, and exercises administrative control of, all equipment and supplies.

Officials at participating schools were asked to complete a survey of the effectiveness of Title VI funds at their campuses. Among administrators at the seven Neglected or Delinquent facilities participating, two rated the Title VI-funded materials as *extremely effective*, four rated them as *highly effective*, and one rated them as *ineffective*. The institution that rated the materials as *ineffective* reported that it was difficult to meet the requirements of the grant, due to their non-traditional teaching format and student population. Among administrators at the 22 private schools participating, 17 rated the materials as *extremely effective*, and 4 rated them as *highly effective*. One school did not return a survey.

READING RECOVERY

Title VI allocated \$33,041 for the Reading Recovery program during the 2000-01 school year and expended \$25,240. Unspent funds included \$2,000 for Reading Recovery teacher training, \$4,293 for reading materials, and a difference of \$1,508 between allocated and expended salaries and benefits. Title VI funds were used to pay 25% of the salary of a Reading Recovery teacher leader, 25% of the salary of a secretary, and reading materials for the program. The Reading Recovery teacher leader's duties included teaching two students daily, providing training for Reading Recovery teachers and literacy support specialists, and monitoring the implementation of Reading Recovery on AISD campuses.

VISITING TEACHERS

During the 2000-01 school year, Title VI allocated \$78,069 and expended \$76,928 for two visiting teachers. Title VI funding paid for 100% of one teacher's salary and for 30% of the other's. The visiting teachers provided services at two high schools (Bowie and Reagan), three middle/junior high schools (Bailey, Kealing, and Lamar), and nine elementary schools (Allison, Baranoff, Blackshear, Campbell, Kiker, Kocurek, Menchaca, Ridgetop, and Wooten). As part of the Department of School Support Services, the visiting teacher program supports campuses in achieving success for all students by connecting students with district and community resources and providing direct and indirect services to students, parents, and staff.

During the 2000-01 school year, visiting teachers attended parent conferences, located outside counseling services for students, provided counseling during situations where deaths or other crises had occurred, and assisted in locating and retrieving dropouts and non-returning students. Visiting teachers also conducted in-depth interviews with parents about their child's history and development to help the child obtain Special Education services and advocated for

students in discipline and expulsion meetings. Other examples of situations in which visiting teachers advocated for students were: 1) fighting and bullying; 2) lack of clothing, shoes, electricity in the home, and money for school supplies; 3) parental abuse and divorce; and 4) a general lack of interest in school by students. In addition, visiting teachers worked with numerous local agencies to provide assistance to AISD students and their families.

REFERENCE

Keswick, K. W. (2000). Title VI: 1999-2000 Feedback (OPE Publication Number 99.13). Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District, Department of Accountability, Office of Program Evaluation.

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